

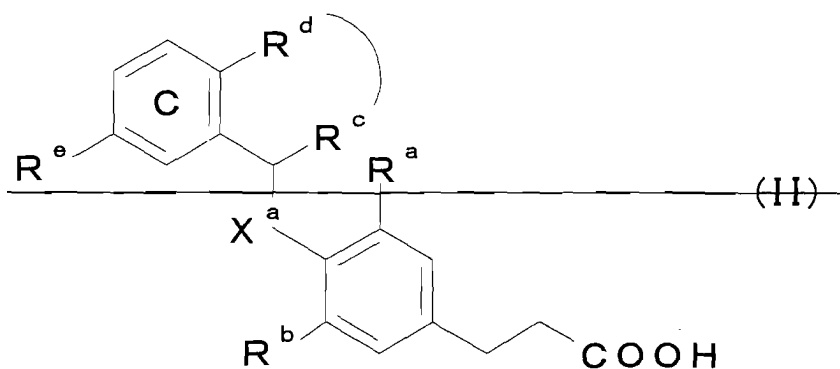
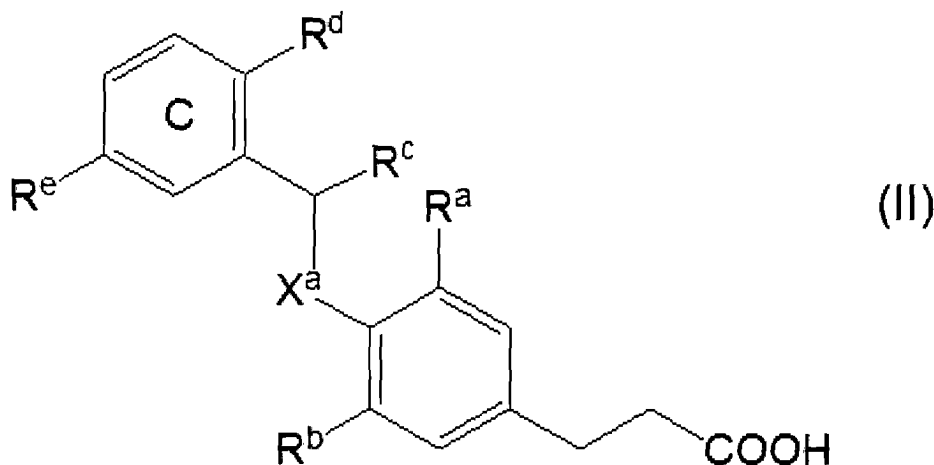
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the formula:



wherein R^a is a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, or a C_{1-6} alkoxy group

R^b is a hydrogen atom[,] or a fluorine atom;

R^c is a hydrogen atom[,] or a C_{1-6} alkyl group;

X^a is an oxygen atom;

ring C is a benzene ring optionally having, in addition to R^d and R^e, further substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of (i) a C₁₋₆ alkyl group, (ii) a hydroxy group, (iii) a C₁₋₆ alkoxy group optionally having substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, amino, C₁₋₆ alkoxy-carbonyl-amino, carboxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy-carbonyl, carbamoyl, mono-C₁₋₆ alkyl-carbamoyl, di-C₁₋₆ alkyl-carbamoyl, and tri-C₁₋₆ alkylsilyloxy, and a 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic group containing, in addition to carbon atom(s), 1 to 4 heteroatoms of one or two kinds selected from a nitrogen atom, a sulfur atom and an oxygen atom, (iv) a C₆₋₁₄ aryloxy group, and (v) a C₇₋₁₆ aralkyloxy group; and

one of R^d and R^e is a hydrogen atom,

(1) when R^d is a hydrogen atom,

then R^e should be (i) a hydroxy group, (ii) a C₁₋₆ alkoxy group optionally having substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₆ alkoxy, carboxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy-carbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkyl-carbonyl, carbamoyl, mono-C₁₋₆ alkyl-carbamoyl, and di-C₁₋₆ alkyl-carbamoyl, (iii) a C₂₋₆ alkynyloxy group, (iv) a C₃₋₇ cycloalkyloxy group, (v) a C₆₋₁₄ aryloxy group optionally having substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, and C₁₋₆ alkyl-carbonyl, or (vi) a 5- to 10-membered heterocycl-yl-oxy group containing, in addition to carbon atom(s), 1 to 4 heteroatoms of one or two kinds selected from a nitrogen atom, a sulfur atom, and an oxygen atom;

(2) when R^e is a hydrogen atom,

then R^d should be (i) a C₁₋₆ alkyl group, (ii) a C₆₋₁₄ aryl group, ~~(iii) a C₁₋₆ alkoxy group optionally having substituent(s) with a 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic group containing, in addition to carbon atom(s), 1 to 4 heteroatoms of one or two kinds selected from a nitrogen atom, a sulfur atom and an oxygen atom, [(iv)]~~ (iii) a C₃₋₇ cycloalkyloxy group, ~~[(v)]~~ (iv) a C₆₋₁₄ aryloxy group optionally having substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom and optionally halogenated C₁₋₆ alkyl, ~~[(vi)]~~ (v) a C₇₋₁₆ aralkyloxy group, or ~~[(vii)]~~ (vi) a 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic group containing, in addition to carbon atom(s), 1 to 4 heteroatoms of one or two kinds selected from a nitrogen atom, a sulfur atom, and an oxygen atom,

or a salt thereof.

7-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 6, wherein R^c is a hydrogen atom; R^d is a hydrogen atom; and R^e is a C₆₋₁₄ aryloxy group optionally having substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy and C₁₋₆ alkyl-carbonyl.

11-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) 3,5-Difluoro-4-[(3-phenoxyphenyl)methoxy]benzenepropanoic acid, or 3-fluoro-4-[(3-phenoxyphenyl)methoxy]benzenepropanoic acid, or a salt thereof.

15. (Original) 3-(4-{[3-(4-Chlorophenoxy)benzyl]oxy}-3,5-difluorophenyl)propanoic acid, 3-(3,5-difluoro-4-{[3-(4-fluorophenoxy)benzyl]oxy}phenyl)propanoic acid, 3-(3,5-difluoro-4-{[3-(4-methylphenoxy)benzyl]oxy}phenyl)propanoic acid, 3-(3-fluoro-4-{[3-(2-fluorophenoxy)benzyl]oxy}phenyl)propanoic acid, 3-(3-fluoro-4-{[3-(3-fluorophenoxy)benzyl]oxy}phenyl)propanoic acid, 3-(3-fluoro-4-{[3-(4-fluorophenoxy)benzyl]oxy}phenyl)propanoic acid, 3-(3-fluoro-4-{[3-(4-chlorophenoxy)benzyl]oxy}phenyl)propanoic acid, 3-(3-fluoro-4-{[3-(4-methylphenoxy)benzyl]oxy}phenyl)propanoic acid, 3-{3-methyl-4-[(3-phenoxybenzyl)oxy]phenyl}propanoic acid, or 3-(4-{[3-(4-fluorophenoxy)benzyl]oxy}-3-methylphenyl)propanoic acid, or a salt thereof.

16-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical agent comprising the compound according to claim 6, or a salt thereof.

19-26. (Cancelled)